

JOHN CROOK



John Crook was born October 11, 1831, in Trenton, Lancashire, England. He married Mary Giles, September 6, 1856. John died March 31, 1921, at the age of 89, one of the stalwart builders of the valley.

John Crook, together with Robert Holden, were baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the spring of 1847. John was baptized by Uncle Peter

Mayho in the Brook of Hallith Wood. On January 1, 1851, he left Old England for America, arriving in Salt Lake City August 15, 1856. In his diary he relates many interesting incidents of the trip to America, the good times and the hard times. He was an ice peddler when he decided to come to Utah with the Giles family (William Giles). Mary, a member of the Giles family, later became his wife. They came to Utah in the E. B. Tripps company. He married Mary Giles September 6, 1856, in Provo City. In June, 1859, the west half of Heber was laid off in city lots, and in July he moved camp to that city and commenced hauling logs and building a house. When Wasatch Stake was organized, July 5, 1877, and Heber was divided into East and West Wards, John Crook was chosen first counselor to Bishop William Forman of the Heber West Ward. He was especially interested in music, genealogy and history, and was considered one of Wasatch County's best historians. He was the first choir leader in Heber. His vocation was farming and stock raising, and he was the owner of the first red sandstone quarries in this area.

Mary Giles Crook was born April 13, 1833, in Calverton, Nottinghamshire, England, to William Giles and Sarah Huskinson. She died September 5, 1888.

Mary Giles Crook was married about a month after their arrival in Utah. She and John Crook were married by Bishop Jonathan O. Duke, Sr. Their first home was a covered wagon box, their next home was a two-room adobe house. The winters of '56 and '57 were very severe and the snow was very deep. Her husband, John, hauled willows from the river bottoms for firewood. Sometimes while working he would sink up to his armpits in the snow. In the fall of 1856, wheat was scarce and flour was \$6 per hundredweight. She, like many other pioneer women, had to grind the wheat by hand in the little coffee mill. In November of '59 a baby girl came to the home of John and Mary Crook. They named her Sarah Elizabeth. This was the second child born in the valley. The home was built in the fort, thus protecting them from the Indians. After leaving the fort they built a three-room log house, later a red sandstone home, which is still standing and is occupied by a granddaughter, Mabel

Crook Lyon. The sandstone was from John's quarry, five miles east of town. At the time of the diphtheria epidemic she went into the homes and helped care for the sick and dying. She acted as a counselor in the Relief Society to President Katie Forman.

Children: John William, Mrs. John Carlile (Sarah Elizabeth), Heber Giles, George and Franklin (both died in infancy), Mrs. Jonathan O. Duke (Mary Jane), Thomas Huskinson, Frederick, and Mrs. Joseph Callister (Margaret Ann).



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Born Oct. 11, 1831, Turtin, Lancashire, Eng. Came to Utah Aug. 20, 1856, Philemon C. Merrill company. Bishop's Counselor. Road Supervisor. 443

CROOK, JOHN (son of Dan Crook and Margaret Key). Born Oct. 11, 1831, Turtin Lancashire, Eng. Came to Utah Aug. 20, 1856, Philemon C. Merrill company.

Married Mary Giles in September, 1856, Provo, Utah (daughter of William and Sarah Giles of Provo, pioneers Aug. 20, 1856). She was born in April, 1833. Their children: John William b. April 9, 1858, m. Sarah E. Bourn; Sarah Elizabeth b. Nov. 28, 1859, m. John Carlisle; Heber Giles b. Sept. 18, 1861, m. Matilda Nicol; George Franklin b. Nov. 9, 1863, died; Mary Jane b. May 29, 1865, m. Jonathan O'Duke; Thomas Huskinson b. April 25, 1867, m. Julia Duke, (died), m. Gertrude Bond; Frederick b. Aug. 17, 1869, m. Minnie Mabel Lindsay; James b. Jan. 5, 1872, died; Margaret b. Jan. 18, 1876. Family home Heber City, Utah. 829

High priest; stake high councilor; counselor to Bishop William Forman. School trustee; road supervisor 1870-74.



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John Crook is one of the hardy pioneers who helped to blaze the trails into this valley. He assisted in the early surveys of farm land and town lots and took part in most of the public improvements that have been started since. He took a prominent part in the Indian troubles, passed through the hard-times period when chopped wheat, smut and all, was at a premium, and braved all the other dangers and hardships incident to pioneer life in those early days.

Mr. Crook was born at Turton township, Lancashire, England, on October 11, 1831. When a small boy he attended school and worked in a factory, filling bobbins for tape weaving, alternately, spending half the day at school and the other half at the factory. This continued until he was about twelve years of age when he was given steady employment in the factory at from five to eight shillings a week. He kept this job until Christmas time in 1850, when he started for Utah with his father and two sisters. They landed at New Orleans March 14, 1851, and reached Council Bluffs about nine weeks later. He stopped

there for five years, during which time his father died and his sisters married. He came on to the valleys in 1856, settling at Provo, where he married Mary Giles. Two years later he made his first trip to this valley in company with J. C. Snow, the surveyor, and others and assisted in surveying a plat of land about one and a half miles square west of Heber City. The next year, 1859, he moved his family up from Provo and established his home here.

John Crook has taken a lively interest in the establishment and maintenance of schools, amusements, Sunday schools and, in fact, all other social, and church organizations. He also kept a fairly good record of weather conditions, crop reports and other statistics for many years and is considered good authority on these points. He has been very successful as a farmer, gardener, and fruit grower and, with his sons, has opened up one of the best sandstone quarries in the state.

He has been volunteer correspondent for the Agricultural Bureau, D. C., for thirty-two years and fourteen years in the Weather Bureau service.